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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/370,981	08/10/1999	YUICHIRO OGAWA	104018	8747

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EXAMINER

FISCHER, JUSTIN R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1733

DATE MAILED: 05/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/370,981

Applicant(s)

OGAWA, YUICHIRO

Examiner

Justin R Fischer

Art Unit

1733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4 and 6-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-8 and 10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. As noted in Paper Number 16 (Continuation Sheet), it is clearly evident that the relevant claims contain separate and unique means for establishing patentability and as such, restriction is proper. Furthermore, as previously stated, the fact that a single reference might depict both embodiments (elected and non elected) does not change the general recognition that the respective inventions represent multiple species of the generic claim. Thus, the restriction previously set forth is maintained, with claims 1, 2, 4, and 6-10 pending and claims 6-8 and 10 withdrawn from consideration. Also, as previously stated, rejoinder will be considered upon the indication of allowable subject matter depending on the basis thereof.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata (US 6-191238, newly cited) in view of Ueyoko (US 5,885,387, of record). As best depicted in Figures 1 and 2, Shibata is directed to a pneumatic, radial tire construction for passenger cars having a pair of rectangular bead cores 3A, 3B in each bead portion such that they are adjacent to each other in the widthwise direction. The

Art Unit: 1733

reference also depicts a carcass structure 4 having a roundtrip return portion that (a) extends from an inside of the tire toward an outside of the tire, (b) is located through a side face of the axially innermost bead core, (c) extends from an inside of the tire toward an outside thereof, and (d) covers at least a radially innermost steel wire arrangement of said axially innermost bead core. However, the reference, in describing the carcass structure, is completely silent with respect to the use of a single, continuous cord. Ueyoko, on the other hand, describes a radial, pneumatic tire for passenger cars in which an endless carcass cord ply is employed. The use of such a carcass structure increases bead durability and contributes to the reduction of tire weight, both of which are desirable in all tires, wherein only the expected results would be achieved in modifying the carcass structure of Shibata in view of Ueyoko. As such, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to form the carcass structure of Shibata from a single, continuous cord structure, in view of Ueyoko, as further detailed below.

With respect to claim 2, Figures 1 and 2 of Shibata depict the return end of the roundtrip return portion as being sandwiched between the respective bead cores.

Regarding claim 9, applicant requires that the roundtrip return portion of the carcass ply cord have multiple, overlapping terminal parts. Ueyoko, in describing this unique carcass design, discloses the use of a multiplicity of folding points, which is analogous to "multiple, overlapping terminal parts". The use of such a carcass design further enhances the bead durability, while promoting the weight reduction of the tire. The reference describes this turnup structure in Column 2, Line 10, saying the carcass cord ply is provided with a multiplicity of folding points arranged in the tire's

Art Unit: 1733

circumferential direction at both outer ends of the cord ply. The turnup structure is additionally depicted in Figure 3.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The prior art references of record failed to suggest a pneumatic, radial tire construction having all the limitations of claim 1 and further having the terminal end of the roundtrip return portion of a single, continuous carcass cord ply extend along the axially outer face of the axially outermost bead core.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Continental (DE 2408474) is directed to a pneumatic tire construction in which a single carcass ply is clamped or sandwiched between a pair of bead cores in each bead portion. However, the reference clearly sets forth that it is not desirable to loop or turn up the ends of said carcass ply since such a construction contributes to wall splits and reduces tire flexibility.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Justin R Fischer** whose telephone number is **(703) 605-4397**. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Ball can be reached on (703) 308-2058. The fax phone numbers

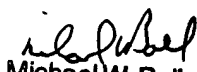
Art Unit: 1733

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.


Justin Fischer

May 20, 2003


Michael W. Ball
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700